

FA106 Beginners Black and White Photography

Seminar Leader: April Gertler
Course Time: Tuesdays, 9am - 12.15pm
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Office Hours: by appointment -Tuesdays 1 - 3pm

Course Description

Using the backdrop of Berlin, this class (named after a famous Hannah Höch piece from the late 1930s) will explore the history of photography by Berlin based photographers while learning how to use a manual camera and also finding one's way around an analogue darkroom through acquiring the technique of printing black and white photographs. The main assignments for the class will focus on 2 important themes in photography: portraiture and street photography. Camera techniques, shooting as much as possible, and black and white printing will be the main focuses of the class. Reading assignments will be given based on the aforementioned themes. You should be organized, able to work for long periods of time alone in the darkroom, and enjoy the process of creating images experimentally. You will need to devote a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of class time to finish the assignments. Photography is a very time-consuming medium. Expect to make mistakes and to learn from them.

Requirements

Students are expected to:

- Turn off phones during the entire class time, including off-campus trips. They will be allowed to be used only during breaks.
- Be prepared to present artworks / assignments / presentations without reminder.
- Engage in critiques and discussions.
- Initiate appointments with Professor or arts staff outside of class time when assistance is necessary.
- Always allocate extra time for work preparation and clean-up for independent production.
- Respond to emails from Professor in a timely manner.
- Inform Professor at beginning of semester if photos of student, artwork, works in progress are NOT to be taken and / or used for Bard College Berlin.
- Remove all artworks, art materials, and any personal belongings before the final inspection of the arts spaces during completion week. Failure to remove works and / or clean spaces used will result in final grade penalization. Donating artworks or art materials (unrequested) at anytime is not permitted and will still be considered student's property that will be expected to be uninstalled and removed.
- Students are expected to purchase 4 rolls of 36 exposure Black and White film, photographic paper as needed and polypropylen bags to hold negatives and prints

Attendance

- Attendance of ALL classes is expected.
- More than one absence (that is, absence from one three-hour session per week) in a semester will significantly affect the participation grade for the course.
- Students are expected to attend all off-campus classes punctually, from start to finish. If there is a scheduling / travel conflict, Professor must be informed in advance.
- Tardiness after five minutes will be considered an absence.

Policy on Late Submission of Artworks / Presentations

Assignments (artworks, essays, performances, oral presentations) that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (Example: B+ becomes C+). Professor is not obliged to accept assignments that are more than 24 hours late. Where Professor agrees to accept a late assignment, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

Assessment

Students are also assessed on their ability to work independently and responsibly. They will be graded on their ability to communicate with Professor as well amongst themselves. This also includes their ambition to create artworks as well as their willingness to budget their time for all requirements connected to this class. This assessment also includes preparation, production, and cleaning up of spaces used at Bard College Berlin.

Grade Breakdown

Attendance: 25%

Class participation (includes both darkroom maintenance / cleaning): 25%

Presentation/participation: 25%

Project presentation: 25%

Weekly Schedule*

*There may be adjustments to the timing of assignments as well as adjustments of content as course progresses. All students will be informed of any new expectations and / or deadlines. It is the sole responsible of each student in this class to be in charge of getting their own film developed at the lab close to campus:

Das Foto (<http://www.dasgrossfoto.de>) Dietzgenstraße 39

September 4: Week 1

Distribution of cameras and film.

Tutorial on how to use an analogue camera.

Readings made available (all readings will be available in Google Drive throughout the semester).

September 11: Week 2

Assignment #1: Shoot one roll of film during class - go over the assignment together in relation to the functionality of the camera

Processed film is due at the beginning of class next week! Please go to the lab (remember it usually takes them a few days to process film!) and have your film processed here*:

*Das Foto (<http://www.dasgrossfoto.de>) Dietzgenstraße 39 - about 5 blocks from campus. The hours are: M-F: 9.30 - 6.30pm, Sat: 9.30 - 12.30pm

*It is NOT ACCEPTABLE to miss class time to pick up your processed film. If your film is not processed for class time it will be reflected in your grade.

September 18: Week 3

TEST in class on : Camera and Film

Analyze shot film from Assignment #1

Introduction to the darkroom; how to use the enlarger, how to mix chemistry and how to make a contact sheet.

Demo: Making a contact sheet!

In-class assignment #2: Make a contact sheet of your negatives!

Readings available in Google Drive on how to make a print.

September 25: Week 4 - How to make a print

TEST in class on the Darkroom

Review contact sheets from Assignment #2

Readings discussed on how to make a print

Demo: Make a print in class!

Assignment #3 is due on October 2 and MUST INCLUDE:

1. 3 prints from the film you have have shot so far
2. Copies of all of your test stripes for each image you have printed
3. All relevant information about the printing (exposure time and F-stop of your lens at your enlarger station) MUST BE WRITTEN on the back of your print with PENCIL

October 2: Week 5 - How to critique a print

Assignment #3 due at the start of class!

Critique day - How to critique a photograph? What to look for? How do we analyze composition? How do we analyze the technical elements of a print?

Homework: Do the readings available in the Google Drive - in the folder PORTRAITURE

SECTION 1: PORTRAITURE

October 9 : Week 6

Discuss readings

Slide show of photographers from Europe and Berlin who work with PORTRAITURE.

Assignment #4: is due October 23:

Shoot 2 rolls of film of at least 4 different people. Focus on portraying each person the best way you can. Print 1 print from each grouping of portraits you did. Four (4) prints will be due on March 20 at the beginning of class.

October 16: Week 7 - PORTRAITURE

Review readings

Slide show of photographers from Berlin who work with portraiture.

Darkroom day!

October 23: Week 8- PORTRAITURE

Critique day!

Assignment #4 due at the beginning of class Class critique of each student's work.

Homework: Do readings available in Google Drive for next Section - in the folder STREET PHOTOGRAPHY.

FALL BREAK: OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 2

SECTION 2: SETS, STORIES AND SITUATIONS

November 6: Week 9

Slide show of photographers (mostly) from Berlin who work with landscape

Assignment #5: Shoot 2 rolls of film of minimum 4 different locations.

Assignment due November 27.

Focus on portraying various types of street scenes. Two of the prints you submit must include people.

Print 1 print from each grouping of locations you shot.

Five (5) prints will be due on at the beginning of class

November 13: Week 10 - Sets, Stories and Situations

Darkroom day!

November 20: Week 12 - Sets, Stories and Situations

Darkroom day!

November 27: Week 13 - Sets, Stories and Situations

Critique day!

Assignment #5 due at the beginning of class Class critique of each student's work.

December 4: Week 14

Open Studio week

December 11 Week 14

Final Class day - Darkroom clean up!

MacLab and Photo Darkroom Facilities – Platanenstrasse 98 (downstairs) ** Guidelines given during orientation.

Facility Policies: The Factory – Eichenstrasse 43

- 1) The BCB "Factory" (main arts building) has space and facilities available to BCB students with an academic purpose for using the building. Any space in the building, private or shared, cannot be used unless permission has been granted. Any questions relating to this must be

addressed to the Director of Studios Arts.

- 2) Chip access to the building will only be granted to those students currently registered for classes using the factory (after add-drop), and that have been offered orientation.
 - 3) No smoking is allowed anywhere inside the building. There are to be no projects using open flames (such as candles, torches, lanterns, fireworks, etc.) inside any part of the building.
 - 4) Fire exits and lanes (black-taped areas) must be kept clear of any obstructions.
 - 5) No spray-painting inside of the building. This also includes any strong, odorous materials (with or without spray). All production involving odorous material is to be done outside the building.
 - 6) All work surfaces (table and floor) must always be protected with thick plastic or cardboard. If production is to happen outside, ground / concrete is also to be protected.
 - 7) Food must be always cleaned up and removed immediately. Any food used for an art project requiring refrigeration must be labeled with one's name, and disposed of after presentation. All food must be disposed of in lidded trash cans.
 - 8) All students are to always be respectful of other student artworks and personal property.
 - 9) No art projects may function as weapons, or potentially cause bodily harm.
 - 10) No sandals, flip-flops, or bare feet will be allowed inside or around the workshop areas, which includes walking through the workshop. This includes dance and theater students as well.
 - 11) Students should always wear adequate protection (goggles, gloves, dust masks, etc.) when needed. BCB will always try to provide these items.
 - 12) If you are uncertain how to use a tool or piece of equipment or require assistance, please ask for assistance (by appointment, if necessary).
 - 13) Students must be aware of who else is working in the building after dark. Any curfews established by Bard College Berlin must be respected. Finishing production and cleaning up must happen before the curfew time.
 - 14) Students must make sure all lights are turned off and doors are closed when leaving the building. No windows or doors are to be left opened or cracked. All electrical items must be unplugged when not in use.
 - 15) Any unidentified property left in any common space is subject to either be taken or thrown out, without restitution. All private property MUST be labeled and stored in its proper location.
 - 16) All workshop items must be returned to the workshop when not in use.
 - 17) Any items leaving the building without permission will be considered stolen, and access to the factory may be suspended for the rest of the semester. If an item must be borrowed for a purpose outside of the building, contact the arts staff, and be prepared to leave your Student ID as a deposit. Fines may be charged for late return.
 - 18) All students must respect signage posted in the factory that may involve rules that are not mentioned in this document. This includes signage indicating reserved spaces where communal use is restricted.
 - 19) There are to be no architectural changes to studios or any areas inside or outside of the building without first speaking with your Professor, Studio Arts Manager, or Director of Studio Arts. When repainting any walls that need restoration, please consult with arts staff beforehand.
 - 20) During completion week, any space used by a student must be returned empty with clean walls and floors. All garbage must be bagged (or boxed) and properly disposed of. All students must accept the penalty of grades being affected and / or fines imposed if items are left (or renovations unfinished) by the inspection deadline.
1. Contact Studio Arts Manager: Joon Park with any questions: j.park@berlin.bard.edu

AV Facilities – Eichenstrasse 43 (upstairs)

- 1) BCB's AV (Audio / Visual) facilities provide a limited quantity of AV equipment to support Admin, Faculty as well as those students enrolled in arts classes that require specific items. AV facilities do not include any black and white or color printing services for students.
- 2) The opening times may change every semester to adapt to specific course times. Once these times are established they will stay consistent throughout the semester, with possible exceptions. AV facilities are ONLY available during days when classes are held (closed during official BCB holidays).
- 3) All items checked out are due back during AV hours the following day, unless other arrangements have been made in advance directly with AV staff.
- 4) Items to be reserved on a specific date should be requested at least one week in advance. Without reservation, availability is limited to a first-come, first-serve basis.
- 5) The AV staff may exclude students from borrowing items at any time, if the student:
 - failed to return items in time
 - failed to return items in person (pick up and/ or return by friends is not allowed)
 - returned items with missing pieces
 - returned items damaged or in poor shape
- 6) AV equipment will be given out only to those students responsible in organizing, picking up as well as returning their items IN PERSON. No exceptions.
- 7) All items returned late, regardless of patron's position at BCB, will be subject to a 1 Euro fine, per day.
- 8) Any item returned without accessories (such as cables, SD card, batteries, tripod head, lens cap, etc) will be subject to a 1 Euro fine, per day (the same as late returns).
- 9) Any items missing will be subject to patron reimbursement for its value (or under special circumstances, replacement, at the discretion of AV staff).
- 10) Any items damaged or malfunctioning are expected to be reported to staff upon check-in.
- 10) Please use the AV email to inquire about equipment or policy, as well as to reserve (av@berlin.bard.edu). Do not contact AV staff through their personal emails.
- 11) We strongly suggest personally visiting the facilities to inquire and reserve before borrowing equipment!
- 12) AV equipment is limited at BCB. Whenever possible students are encouraged to use their own devices (computers, cameras) for production purposes.
- 13) Contact AV staff with any questions: av@berlin.bard.edu